

CPL CHARLES W. LINDBERG

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg. Like so many of our veterans, he put his life on the line so that we might live in peace, free from tyranny and oppression. On the morning of February 23, 1945, six brave young Marines—Jim Michels, Hank Hansen, Louis Charlo, Boots Thomas, Harold Schrier, and Charles Lindberg—trudged up the steep slopes of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, dodging grenades and machine gun fire, to destroy an enemy outpost. There they planted the first American flag on Iwo Jima, marking the first plot of native Japanese soil captured by Americans in World War II. This historic event paved the way for the raising of the second American flag, immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph as one of our greatest symbols of freedom, triumph and courage. Sadly, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg is the sole remaining survivor of this fearless group. However, Cpl Lindberg's selfless devotion to his country did not end on the battlefield. Cpl Lindberg worked hard to improve our country and the lives of our soldiers. Today, he continues to devote himself to veterans, veterans organizations, and his community. I salute Cpl Charles W. Lindberg for his ever-lasting spirit of patriotism, bravery, dedication, and service to his community and country.

LT COL ROBERT HAGEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Lt. Col. Robert Hagen.

Col. Hagen is a career Army officer with 24 years of service. He has served in the Guard, Reserves and Active Duty—and he is currently a Reservist on his 16th tour in 7 years.

Col. Hagen was in Saudi Arabia for a temporary tour of duty during the September 11 attacks on the base just outside of Riyadh and he was responsible for keeping the soldiers on the base informed. I'm sure all Americans abroad at that time—particularly those in uniform—would have preferred being closer to home and protecting those on the home front in harm's way. This was especially true for soldiers like Col. Hagen who knew many working at the Pentagon and lost six friends that fateful day. But through that terrible time in our Nation's history, so many like Col. Hagen remained abroad, steadfast in protecting American democratic principles throughout the world.

Col. Hagen returned to Washington in December 2001 on assignment to the Pentagon as deputy chief of Army Communications in the office of the chief of Public Affairs. In this position, Col. Hagen oversaw the public affairs duties at Baltimore-Washington International Airport for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan on the Rest & Recuperation pro-

gram. It was in this capacity that I had the great fortune to first meet the Colonel.

Always calm and assured speaking simultaneously into a cell phone, making decisions, answering questions and enthusiastically welcoming troops home as they disembark from planes, Col. Hagen has been an incredible force at BWI during this historic R&R program that brought troops stateside for the first time in DoD history. Always committed to doing what is best for the soldiers, I am grateful to Col. Hagen for his work and his efforts each day.

I am also grateful for his support for Operation Hero Miles, a program coordinated through my office to correct a great injustice. For soldiers coming home on R&R and facing the incredibly unfair financial burden of paying for last minute flights home from BWI, Operation Hero Miles collects frequent flier miles to give soldiers in need free tickets home. Col. Hagen was on board with this program from the start and helped us to understand what was needed to make it work. Again, this is just another example of his commitment to do what is best for the soldiers.

Col. Hagen's last day on this Washington assignment is November 14, 2003 and then he will begin home for his 29th cross-country drive back to the west coast. As he does so, I wish to thank him for his dedication to this Nation and to the service men and women who so bravely protect it. I thank his wife Sharon Hagen for her support when Col. Hagen's work took him so far away from home so often.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Col. Hagen for his service and for his work on behalf of America's service men and women and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the 26 votes I missed during the period October 29th through October 31st due to my participation in an official Congressional delegation to Iraq approved by you. Although I regret these missed votes, there is no question that that trip was indispensable to a more complete understanding of our intervention in Iraq.

I wish to state for the RECORD how I would have voted on these 26 votes.

On rollcall votes 580, 584, 585, 588, 589, and 590, motions to adjourn, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 581, approval of the journal, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 576, passage of H.R. 1720, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 577, passage of H.R. 1516, the National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 578, passage of H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 579, passage of H. Res. 414, to encourage the People's Republic of China to fulfill its commitments under international trade agreements, support the United

States manufacturing sector, and establish monetary and financial market reforms, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 582, passage of H. Con. Res. 291, expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 583, passage of H.J. Res. 75, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 584, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 422, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 587, on passage of H. Res. 422, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 591, motion to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 592, passage of H.R. 2115, FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 593, passage of H. Res. 409, repudiating anti-Semitic remarks expressed by Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 594, motion to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2691, the FY2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 595, passage of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2691, the FY2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 596, passage of H. Con. Res. 302, expressing a sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on October 31, 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 597, on agreeing to H. Res. 421, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (martial law for consideration of H.R. 3289, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations), I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 598, the Johnson motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 599, the Davis motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 600, motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 3289, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for FY2004, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote 601, agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3289, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to confirm my position on these important votes during my necessary absence.